

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05074 311304Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 HA-05 EB-08 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 AID-05 ICAE-00 /051 W

-----021219 311308Z /47

P 302201Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8253

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 5074

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CO

SUBJ: KIDNAPPINGS: COLOMBIAN TEXACO EXECUTIVE ABDUCTED

1. JUAN NICOLAS ESCOBAR SOTO, A COLOMBIAN CITIZEN WHO IS GENERAL MANAGER OF THE LOCAL OFFICE OF THE TEXAS PETROLEUM COMPANY AND PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BANK OF COLOMBIA, WAS KIDNAPPED IN BOGOTA ON MAY 29.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, CONFIRMED TO THE AMBASSADOR BY ANOTHER TEXACO OFFICIAL, SEVERAL ARMED MEN AND TWO WOMEN DRAGGED ESCOBAR STRUGGLING FROM HIS CAR WHICH WAS PARKED AT AROUND NOON ON A BUSY STREET. THE KIDNAPPERS AS YET HAVE MADE NO DEMANDS, AND IT IS NOT CLEAR IF THE ABDUCTION WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.

3. THE AMBASSADOR AND RSO ARE IN CONTACT WITH THE TOP U.S. EMPLOYEE IN TEXACO'S LOCAL OFFICE TO EXPRESS THE EMBASSY'S CONCERN AND TO OFFER ALL APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE. ESCOBAR, WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY, HAD SPOKEN IN DECEMBER, 1977, TO THE RSO REGARDING AN APPARENT EXTORTION ATTEMPT IN WHICH THE FORMER'S LIFE HAD BEEN THREATENED. THE RSO ADVISED ESCOBAR OF POSSIBLE SECURITY MEASURES, URGED HIM TO ALERT THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AND LATER MET WITH TEXACO'S LOCAL HEAD OF SECURITY. SO FAR,  
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THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE HAS NOT BEEN REQUESTED IN THE MAY 29 INCIDENT, ALTHOUGH WE EXPECT TO BE CONTACTED BY U.S. TEXACO OFFICIALS WHO, WE UNDERSTAND, ARE ARRIVING TO INVESTIGATE THE ABDUCTION.  
ASENCIO

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BUSINESSMEN, KIDNAPPING  
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**Draft Date:** 30 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BOGOTA05074  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** KIDNAPPINGS: COLOMBIAN TEXACO EXECUTIVE ABDUCTED  
**TAGS:** PINS, ASEC, CO, TEXACO, (ESCOBAR SOTO, JUAN NICOLAS)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014